

Claims

1. A method for preparing an extract of *Centella asiatica* comprising a mixture of madecassoside, of terminoloside and of asiaticoside, characterized in that it comprises
5 the following steps:

- a) extraction of the parts of *Centella asiatica* that are above ground by means of an alcoholic solvent;
- b) passage of the alcoholic solution obtained in step a), over anionic resin;
- 10 c) selective defatting by liquid/liquid extraction of the eluate obtained in step b);
- d) concentration of the defatted aqueous-alcoholic phase to an aqueous phase with successive filtrations;
- e) successive passage of the aqueous phase obtained in step
15 d), over cationic resin and then over anionic resin;
- f) stabilization of the aqueous phase obtained in step e) by addition of alcohol and obtaining of a mixture comprising madecassoside, terminoloside and asiaticoside.

20 2. A method for preparing an extract of *Centella asiatica* comprising a mixture of madecassoside and of terminoloside, characterized in that it comprises the following steps:

- a) extraction of the parts of *Centella asiatica* that are above ground by means of an alcoholic solvent;
- 25 b) passage of the alcoholic solution obtained in step a), over anionic resin;
- c) selective defatting by liquid/liquid extraction of the eluate obtained in step b);
- d) concentration of the defatted aqueous-alcoholic phase to
30 an aqueous phase with successive filtrations;
- e) successive passage of the aqueous phase obtained in

step d), over cationic resin and then over anionic resin;

f) stabilization of the aqueous phase obtained in step e) by addition of alcohol;

5 g) selective chromatography of the prepurified aqueous-alcoholic phase obtained in step f); and

h) recovery of the mixture of madecassoside and of terminoloside in its final form.

10 3. The extraction method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the anionic resin used in step b) is a strong anionic resin with functional groups of the quaternary ammonium type.

15 4. The extraction method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the cationic resin used in step e) is a strong cationic resin with functional groups of the sulfonate type.

20 5. The extraction method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the anionic resin used in step e) is a strong anionic resin with functional groups of the quaternary ammonium type.

25 6. The extraction method as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 5, characterized in that the solvent used during the selective chromatography of step g) is a mixture of water and ethanol in water/ethanol proportions ranging from 50/50 to 90/10 volume by volume.

30 7. The extraction method as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 6, characterized in that the stationary phase used during the selective chromatography is an apolar stationary phase, in particular a stationary phase consisting of grafted apolar silicas, the apolar grafts having 2 to 18 carbon atoms.

8. The extraction method as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 7, characterized in

that the mixture of madecassoside and of terminoloside is obtained with a purity greater than 95 wt% relative to the weight of the extract.

5 9. An extract of *Centella asiatica* that can be obtained by means of the method as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 8 and that comprises more than 95 wt% of a mixture of madecassoside and of terminoloside.

10 10. The extract of *Centella asiatica* as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the mixture has a madecassoside:whole ratio of between 30 wt% and 70 wt%, advantageously of between 40 and 60 wt%.

15 11. The extraction method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that it also comprises, in parallel, a step consisting of standardization of the mixture obtained in step f), by the addition of an appropriate amount of an extract as claimed in claim 9 or 10 such that the final extract thus obtained has a purity of between 90 and 98 wt%, relative to the total weight of the final extract.

20 12. A standardized extract of *Centella asiatica* that can be obtained by means of the method as claimed in claim 11 and that comprises at least 75 wt%, advantageously at least 85 wt%, relative to the whole, of a mixture of madecassoside, of terminoloside and of asiaticoside.

25 13. The standardized extract as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the asiaticoside:(madecassoside + terminoloside) ratio by mass is between 5:95 and 25:75.

14. The standardized extract as claimed in claim 12 or 13, characterized in that the madecassoside: terminoloside ratio by mass is between 30:70 and 70:30, advantageously between 40:60 and 60:40.

30 15. A drug comprising an extract of *Centella asiatica* as claimed in claim 9 or 10 and a pharmaceutically acceptable support.

16. The drug as claimed in claim 15, intended for regulating inflammatory mechanisms.

5 17. The drug as claimed in claim 15 or 16, intended for the treatment of autoimmune diseases, chronic inflammatory diseases, atopic inflammatory diseases or bowel diseases.

10 18. The drug as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 17, intended for the treatment of psoriasis, vitiligo, pityriasis, scleroderma, bullous dermatoses, eczema, atopic dermatitis, allergy or rheumatoid arthritis.

15 19. The drug as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 18, intended for the prevention and treatment of drifting toward chronic inflammation associated with aging and its consequences.

20 20. The drug as claimed in claim 19, intended for the prevention and treatment of diseases chosen from anaphylactic sensitizations, pigmentary anomalies of the skin, dermal hypervascularization and inflammatory fissuring.

21. The drug as claimed in claim 19, intended for regulating dermal tissue homeostasis.

25 22. A cosmetic composition comprising an extract of *Centella asiatica* as claimed in any one of claims 12 to 14 and a cosmetically acceptable support.

30 23. The cosmetic use of the composition as claimed in claim 22, for preventing any pathological drift toward autoimmunity that may result from aging of the skin, for delaying natural aging of the skin, for preventing accelerated aging of skin subjected to outside attacks, in particular for preventing photo-induced aging of the skin.